

**Minutes
Board of Health Special Meeting
Chelan-Douglas Health District
June 26, 2020**

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board of Health Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The meeting was held via video-conferencing but participants may also attend by phone only, with login information posted on the opening page of the CDHD web site.

Board Members Present:

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner
Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner
Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner
Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner
John Sterk, East Wenatchee City Council
Ruth Esparza, Wenatchee City Council
Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council

Staff Present:

Barry Kling, Administrator
Dr. Malcolm Butler, Health Officer
Kandis Boersema, Associate Administrator, Interim Board Secretary
Hilary Knelleken, Associate Administrator, Environmental Health
Carol McCormick, Associate Administrator, Personal Health
Veronica Farias, Health Communications Coordinator

Chuck Zimmerman, Chelan-Douglas Health District Attorney

Dan Sutton, Board Vice-Chair, took a role call and a quorum was present. He stated the Board would go into executive session related to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) and (i) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for public employment and to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel. The executive session would take an estimated time of 30 minutes.

Executive Session was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair, stated that Board Chair Jill Thompson, called in for the executive session only and was no longer on the meeting call and Board Member Ruth Esparza also

joined the call during the executive session and was still on the meeting call. He stated that Board action is necessary following the executive session.

Chuck Zimmerman, Attorney for Chelan-Douglas Health District, stated the Board had reviewed a 6-page written retirement and release agreement for current Administrator, Barry Kling. Mr. Kling stated that he read and agrees to the terms of the written agreement and Mr. Zimmerman stated the Board could move forward on action items related to the agreement.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair entertained a motion to approve the Retirement and Release agreement of CDHD Administrator Barry Kling. Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner, made a motion to approve the Retirement and Release agreement of CDHD Administrator Barry Kling. Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, seconded the motion it carried unanimously.

Chuck Zimmerman, Attorney for Chelan-Douglas Health District, stated the 2nd action item would be the appointment of an Interim Administrator. He explained that three Board members interviewed a candidate Bruce Buckles for the Interim Administrator position. Mr. Buckles is currently the Executive Director of Aging and Adult Care of North Central Washington. If chosen for the Interim Administrator of the Health District, Mr. Buckles would take a leave of absence from his current role. He would be offered a salary of \$9,250/month with benefits to be negotiated with Board Chair, Jill Thompson, in the coming days.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair entertained a motion to select Bruce Buckles as Interim Administrator at a salary of \$9,250 per month with benefits to be negotiated by the Board Chair. Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, made a motion to approve the appointment of said Interim Administrator. Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, seconded the motion it carried unanimously.

Dan Sutton, Board Vice-Chair, explained to those in attendance that benefits will be negotiated at a later date as Mr. Buckles may retain benefits from his current employer during the leave of absence.

Dan Sutton, Board Vice-Chair, stated the Report due to the State Secretary of Health on June 30th was prepared with input from a number of groups and edited/drafted by Barry Kling and Dr. Butler. The draft report

was circulated to Board Members prior to the meeting for input on revisions. Discussion followed.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair entertained a motion to have Barry Kling submit the report to the State Secretary of Health. Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, made a motion to approve the report for submission. Sharon Waters, Leavenworth City Council, seconded the motion it carried unanimously.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, gave an update on the COVID-19 Recovery Response Team. He stated that the Pandemic Plan document was in draft form and after a few additional meetings with the team the document will be presented to the Board of Health. Discussion followed.

State Representative Mike Steele gave an update on his conversations with other State Leaders regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our local communities. He spoke of the emphasis on the importance of contract tracing and that Yakima County is making progress through contract tracing with the help of State. He spoke of various strategies for the LatinX community and Ag workers who are in a higher risk category due to the increased number of employees during Cherry Harvest. He also spoke of the need to increase the number of tourist wearing masks when visiting our communities and that it would be helpful if all Chambers of Commerce in the area have a joint campaign and messaging on the importance of mask wearing.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair, emphasized the importance of all community members to wear masks to get the community whole again as quickly as possible. He stated that business owners in our community need people to wear masks and to frequent the businesses often. He stated that spending money at local businesses helps the business owner pay their bills, their employees and hopefully themselves. Many businesses are on the razors edge and by putting personal feelings aside about masking is to be compassionate and doing what we all need to do to save the economy. We will see people lose their livelihoods if we cannot reopen the economy. And related discussion followed with other Board members echoing in agreement.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, stated that he appreciated the Op-Ed Dr. Butler wrote in the newspaper related to masking. He said anti-maskers were coming around on the idea of mask wearing with

Dr. Butler's information. A mask is a compromise and the next best thing to a vaccine. Wearing a mask will assist us in keeping businesses open.

Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, agreed that masking is the best path forward and would like people to take it serious. He stated that masking will help to avoid moving backwards in the State's Phased Reopening approach.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, stated that he is not willing to move even an inch backwards in the phased reopening process. He stated he will do everything he can as a Commissioner to open the economy. He stated that going forward is the only direction we can afford to go. He stated that voluntary compliance with masking is much more ideal than being forced to do so as in Yakima County. Additional discussion on masking followed.

Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, spoke to wanting to reconvene the same workgroup used previously for the Phase 1 application. He stated that per an email from Dr. Butler, Chelan and Douglas Counties are not eligible for the next phase until July 1. Kevin said the workgroup would reconvene meetings on July 2nd and would take on the majority of the work to create the application to allow Health District employees to focus on other important work. Kevin stated that he is not sure if we can move to Phase 3 at this time with the current positive case numbers and that Dr. Butler is not comfortable with the increase in cases to move forward at this time. He read a list of names of those belonging to the workgroup.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner and Board Vice-Chair entertained a motion to reconvene the Phased Reopening Application Workgroup. Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, made a motion to reconvene the workgroup. Marc Straub, Douglas County Commissioner, seconded the motion it carried unanimously.

Doug England, Chelan County Commissioner, asked if the out-of-area patients currently hospitalized at Central Washington Hospital would inflate our metrics and cause our application to be denied. Dr. Butler, Health Officer, said the State would only look at the patients hospitalized from our Counties and that out-of-area patients should not count against us. He explained which metrics we are not meeting at this time. The contact tracing metric is not being met but the State is handling the contact tracing so that, too, should not count against us.

Dan Sutton, Douglas County Commissioner, stated that as there are many moving parts and pieces coming together that weekly Board meetings would be appropriate at this time. This will allow the Board to move forward on Phased Reopening application within 24 hours of our metrics being at an appropriate level for the application to be submitted. The next meeting was set for Thursday, July 2nd at 3 pm.

Dan Sutton, Board Vice-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:11 pm.



Dan Sutton, Board Vice-Chair